

The danger from Iraq is clear, and it's multiplied a thousand times over by the possibility of a chemical or biological or nuclear attack. The time to confront this threat is before it arrives, not the day after.

I have no greater responsibility than protecting the American people. Should military action become necessary for our own security, I will commit the full force and might of the United States military, and we will prevail.

In whatever lies ahead, the United States will remain a friend to the Iraqi people. They have suffered years of brutal repression, years of domestic terror from their own rulers. A new regime would bring deliverance for them.

Iraqi resources are abundant; its culture is rich; its citizens are talent—talented. And given a chance, there is no limit to what the Iraqi people can achieve. Their hopes are the same as all people in every land, to lead lives of dignity in a nation at peace. And America will help them.

As many veterans have seen in countries around the world, captive people have greeted American soldiers as liberators, and there is good reason. We have no territorial ambitions. We don't seek an empire. Our Nation is committed to freedom for ourselves and for others. We and our allies have fought evil regimes and left in their place self-governing and prosperous nations.

And in every conflict, the character of our Nation has been demonstrated in the conduct of the United States military. Where they have served, America's veterans are remembered by civilians with affection, not fear.

One veteran recalls the closing days of the Second World War. In the spring of 1945, he said, "Around the world, the sight of a 12-man squad of teenage boys armed in uniform brought terror to people's hearts. But there was an exception, a squad of GIs, a sight that brought the biggest smiles you ever saw to people's lips and joy to their hearts. GIs meant candy and cigarettes, C-rations and freedom." "America," he said, "has sent the best of her young men around the world, not to conquer but to liberate, not to terrorize but to help."

As the Commander in Chief of Veterans Day, 2002, I see that same spirit in our military. These men and women are still the best of America. They are prepared for every mission we give them, and they are worthy of the standards set for them by America's veterans. Our veterans from every era are the finest of citizens. We owe them the life we know today. They command the respect of the American people, and they have our everlasting gratitude.

May God bless America's veterans.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:54 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Elizabeth Ann Principi, wife of Secretary Anthony J. Principi; Nancy Jackson, wife of Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson, USA; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks at a Veterans Day Ceremony in Arlington, Virginia

November 11, 2002

Thank you very much. Thank you for that warm welcome. Mr. Secretary, thank you for your leadership. Members of my Cabinet who are here, distinguished Members of Congress, members of the United States military, Joe Burns, veterans organizations which are represented here, our veterans, my fellow Americans, thank you for coming.

We gather this morning to show our gratitude to the veterans of the United States Armed Forces. Here and across the Nation, Americans are marking this day with expressions of respect for all who have worn the uniform of our country.

This is a day of honor. Yet every day in this National Cemetery, family members visit the graves of loved ones, and veterans come to honor their lost friends. And nearly every day, in solemn ceremony, another veteran is laid to rest at Arlington. This is a place of national mourning and national memory. We remember those who served America by fighting and dying on the field of battle, and we remember those veterans who lived on for many decades to serve America in many ways.

Not every marker in this cemetery bears a name. Near us are the graves of Americans from three wars, men known only to God

but honored by their country and by the guards who stand watch. If you're a veteran, you also stand watch over the memory of great events and of brave young Americans. You're witnesses to what was gained in our wars and what was lost. You carry the fine traditions and values of our military, and you share them by example. You have a special place in the life of America, and America is proud of you.

One veteran, a company commander in the Normandy invasion, returned many decades later to the cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach. He said, "Standing there in appreciation and sadness and long-postponed grief, I could only wonder, why not me?" Millions of veterans have asked themselves that same question, and it has helped to shape the course of their lives.

Veterans do not take life for granted. They know that duty and sacrifice are more than words. And they love America deeply because they know the cost of freedom, and they know the names and faces of men and women who paid for it.

The term "veteran" conveys more than a rank held in the past. Military service forms priorities and commitments that last for a lifetime. Every person who has put on the uniform, whether in time of war or in time of peace, has also felt a new sense of responsibility.

Dwight Eisenhower once recalled the day he began his military career. "The feeling came over me," he said, "that the expression 'the United States of America' would now and henceforth mean something different than it had ever before. From here on, it would be the Nation I would be serving, not myself."

Long after their honorable discharge, our veterans still symbolize what it means to be a citizen. Go to any community in this country, and you will find veterans in positions of service and leadership. In so many ways, veterans live out the meaning of patriotism and idealism and concern for others. Those of us who are the children and grandchildren of veterans have seen those qualities up close. Each of us is better because of the influence of a veteran, and so is America.

America must and will keep its word to those men and women who have given us

so much. Veterans have been promised good health care when they are sick and disabled. They must be treated with fairness and respect. And to families across this land with loved ones whose fate is still undetermined, America owes the fullest possible accounting of our prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Every veteran once stood ready to give all for our country, and they know that a true soldier never welcomes war. This Nation loves peace. We work and sacrifice for peace. Yet America must always be prepared to confront and defeat the enemies of human freedom. And when war is forced upon us, we will see it through to victory.

At this hour, members of our military are serving on the scattered battlefields of a new kind of war. In Afghanistan and beyond, they're on the trail of killers who brought death to the innocent and war to our country. That mission will go on until the terrorists who struck America are fully and finally defeated.

This new kind of war also requires us to confront outlaw regimes that seek and possess the tools of mass murder. We will not permit a dictator who has used weapons of mass destruction to threaten America with chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. This great Nation will not live at the mercy of any foreign plot or power. The dictator of Iraq will fully disarm, or the United States will lead a coalition and disarm him.

Over the generations, Americans in uniform have defended this Nation without seeking to dominate any nation. American troops do not come as conquerors but as liberators. We believe in self-government for every land, and we believe that freedom is the hope of people of all cultures.

By standing for freedom today, our military follows in a great tradition of courage and faithful service. Free nations are in debt to the long, distinguished line of American veterans, and all Americans owe our veterans our liberty.

On this Veterans Day, we honor veterans, and we honor their families, and we offer the thanks of a grateful nation. May God bless our veterans, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. in the Memorial Amphitheater at Arlington National Cemetery. In his remarks, he referred to Joe Burns, president, Blinded Veterans Association; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 8, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 12, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 12.

Notice—Continuation of Emergency Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction

November 6, 2002

On November 14, 1994, by Executive Order 12938, President Clinton declared a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons (weapons of mass destruction) and the means of delivering such weapons. On July 28, 1998, the President issued Executive Order 13094 to amend Executive Order 12938 to more effectively respond to the worldwide threat of weapons of mass destruction proliferation activities. Because the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering them continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, the national emergency first declared on November 14, 1994, and extended on November 14, 1995, November 12, 1996, November 13, 1997, November 12, 1998, November 10, 1999, November 12, 2000, and November 9, 2001, must continue in effect beyond November 14, 2002. In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12938, as amended.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 6, 2002.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction

November 6, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems declared by Executive Order 12938 on November 14, 1994, as amended, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on November 13, 2001 (66 FR 56965).

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering them continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined the national emergency previously declared must continue in effect beyond November 14, 2002.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 6, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 12.